

sure we are that he will not have the pillars of that beautiful temple sprinkled with the blood of rankings among brethren. Oh, it is no fable to tell us of stains indelible on floors and pavements where murders have been committed: there are eyes, and Heaven gives such to true ministers of its truths, that can see where these confront the view. Murderers, said we? "he who loves not his brother is a murderer."

We care not for papers, though of these we have had supplied to us all which speak of merits and demerits in their essence; a beautiful plan is before us, a "CATNOSE" PLAN, as the rev. vicar is said to have intimated, and we cannot credit that a hand has been put to it whose deserts ought not to have carried them through. Bickerings, the offspring of our little passions, will now and then arise, but in inferior things, in matters of petty amount and consideration, derisory haste to soothe them down—if in large affairs, forbids and represents them. Let the good vicar reflect whether he has not yielded something to procrastination, and proved too much against one to whom he must have played some share of confidence, and let him seek the means of the separate, to prevent nobody jealousies, vain dissensions, profanations, and sacrilege.

WOOD PAVEMENTS.

It will be in the recollection of our readers, that we were, singularly enough, thrown upon the choice of Mr. Stead's patent to illustrate our first reference to wood pavements. We had not then seen his specification, although we felt that considerable merit, on the score of priority alone, was due to him. Knowing how much that man has to encounter who first braves and contends against public prejudice, even in introducing matters for the benefit of that same public—knowing how much Mr. Stead must have been assailed with ridicule, and laughed at, as a whimsical and idle projector—how much money he must have spent in overcoming the prejudice, the sneer, and the jeer—how much anxiety he must have suffered, and how much of disappointment must have beset his path, we felt it were a pity if his title to the protection of a patent depended not on a comprehensive expression, large as the measure of his risks, rather than on a mere description of form of block. His appeared to us a case like that reported of Columbus, who exemplified the merit of his new labour of discovery by making an egg stand on end; Mr. Stead made the egg of wood paving, so to speak, stand on end; he showed the practicability, he smoothed the path, and was followed, as is natural, by a host of minor or secondary inventors. What care was about the publication of Mr. Finlayson or Mr. Heard's letters, or Sir W. Worsley's laying down a bit of spruce pavement at his own doorway for the comfort and luxury of his visitors? none of these gentlemen had thought it proper to run the large and fearful risks of bringing the invention into public and general use, and for all they did, the public were in point of fact not a groat's worth the wiser or better. Hundreds of men may see the advantage which is to be reaped publicly or privately by certain inventions and expedients, but if they put not one finger forward, or choose to shrink from every little sacrifice that may be necessary to till the ground, sow the seed, to water, to manure, and reap the crop, shall it be said that they ought to have the "lion's share" of the reaping of that crop, or do other others who have done the things they have declined, or were

not inclined to do? Patents are rewards or protections, extending over a very brief period, to protect not only an inventor of a new mechanical or other product, but the inventor and practical introducer of a new thing of public usage and advantage, and it would be inequitable in the extreme if, after having solved the practical problem to all its essence, he were free to be superseded on mere matters of form. We do not deny the ingenuity and the merit of future labourers in the field, but what we protest against is, that looseness in the law which risks a man's whole deprivation through the dexterity of mere second thoughts. A remedy may be wanting, and a means of securing the due reward of improvers, and we think this remedy should be sought for diligently; but we do sincerely trust that the issue of this case of Mr. Stead's will be to confirm him in his full title of the first public-spirited mover and adventurer in a matter of, so much public advantage as wood pavement secures. We were to have had first facilities for giving a full and authentic report of the trial, and we do not assume too much in holding that we had a priority of title to it, as the organ of that class most competent to take cognizance of the matter; but some self-sufficiency or insufficiency in some quarter precluded it. Nevertheless, we do of ourselves, and unprompted, make good the *laches*, or the negligence that lies at another door.

SUSSEX MEMORIAL.

It is our intention next week to present our readers with two full-page engravings of a design for the proposed Sussex Memorial, by Mr. Joseph Hansom, the architect of the Birmingham Town Hall, to be accompanied by a description, including some remarks on memorial structures generally. We trust they will be considered as far valuable as to justify our calling special attention to the forthcoming number by this notice; we have in preparation other important papers and illustrations of the works of our leading architects; and we hope that the example thus set will be followed up by contributions to what we may term our Gallery of Architectural Exhibitions, seeing how miserably deficient the country is in any other resource or means of publicity.

NEW PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

As soon as we can collect all the necessary information, we propose giving a tabular statement of all the churches and other edifices of public interest in England, which are now in progress of building. We must request our friends in the country to assist us with the following information relative to any public building now in course of erection in their neighbourhood; namely, title of building and its situation; name of architect and builder; when commenced; first stone laid; probable time of completion; with any other particulars. Should we receive the co-operation we now seek, it will enable us to make up an account of all the new buildings in England, which, in our opinion, must prove interesting to all classes of our readers.

MASONS' PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

We are almost ashamed to prefer any matter in this paper to the remarks that appear to us to be called for in reference to the above subject. A printed circular, of the date of the 24th of August, is in our hands, which sets out with the following important heading:—

"In pursuance of a resolution passed at a meeting of the Mason's Trade, it was unanimously resolved, that a committee should be appointed,

with power to add to their number, for the purpose of raising a fund to effect a most desirable object—viz, the erection of an asylum, and permanent maintenance of the aged and infirm members of the Trade."

To do justice, however, to this subject, we must know more of the details, and have to beg their transmission, when we promise to pay our best attention to it.

MODERN BUILDINGS.

A New publication, called *THE BUILDER*, has recently made its appearance, and we hope it will meet with the success it deserves. It contains much information, both of a practical and scientific nature, besides the usual quantity of general matter appropriated to the columns of a newspaper.

Notwithstanding the prodigious number of houses which have been run up of late years, as rapidly as if erected by the architect of the nursery, who raised the famous house that 'Jack built,' it may be questioned whether any of these houses are built on any well-conceived and well-executed principles.

Thousands have been so frantically erected in all our large towns that, after a few years, they are a source of constant expense and endless trouble to their owners, being either 'wind or water tight,' the foundations had ill-drained, and the walls and carpenter's work so slight that, when once decay begins, the cheapest way is to pull the whole down and rebuild. Our houses are also so constructed, owing to the value of frontage-ground, that a large portion of them are underground, and in bad situations are always damp and subject to misman.

Most of our houses are also very cold, partly owing to the thinness of the walls, and partly to the mode in which they are constructed, by which there are always draughts right through. In Germany, houses are erected which are nearly of the same temperature winter and summer. Great attention is paid to aspect—the house always facing the south, so that the sun warms, airs, and lights three sides of the building. All the windows and doors are in one of these three sides, and few on the north side.

The moment the front door is open in our modern houses in England, a hurricane, in windy weather, forces itself into the houses, and nothing but slapping and banging of doors is heard. The temperature is instantly lowered several degrees, and colds, rheumatism, coughs, influenza, and a thousand other evils are the consequence.

All these evils are avoided by simple means in the houses in Germany. The hall, that odious, useless, and most comfortable adjunct to a house of tolerable size, is now generally dispensed with in our modern houses, and a long narrow passage, with a door back and front, and the staircase in the middle, is the most improved substitute, and has generally come into use because of the frontage; but, however general the practice, however imperious the necessity that has led to its adoption, it ought not to shut our eyes to the inconvenience and ill consequences to which it gives rise. Most of our kitchens are also situated underground, and the fumes from them in some of our best houses are diffused, to the no small offence of the officious, all over the house and even into the bed-rooms. As far as business is concerned, it is necessary that houses should be built in a line adjoining each other, so as to form a street; but no such necessity exists for building the houses of the gentry and persons in independent circumstances; and a taste for detached houses is shown in every direction round the metropolis and will doubtless spread to other parts of the kingdom. *THE BUILDER* contains many useful hints and even plans and designs for houses of this description; and so important is the subject of the dwellings of the humbler classes become, that the government itself has sent out plans, &c., for their better construction, and certainly a comfortable habitation, whether for rich or poor, is a matter of the first consideration; and as building is constantly going on, those interested in it cannot do better than consult *THE BUILDER* periodical that we have been noticing.—B. H.

[We quote the foregoing remarks from the *Sheffield Iris*, not the more readily or eagerly because our journal is favourably noticed, but